

1. (Currently amended) A ~~compound~~ composition comprising a duplex consisting of a first and a second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide, wherein:

each of ~~said the~~ first and ~~said the~~ second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides is from ~~42 to 30~~ 17 to 25 linked nucleosides in length;

~~said the~~ first chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide is 100% complementary to ~~said the~~ second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide and to a selected target mRNA;

the first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide and the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide are not covalently linked to each other;

at least one of ~~said the~~ first and second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides comprises a plurality of 2'-hydroxy-pentofuranosyl sugar moieties; and

each of ~~said the~~ first and ~~said the~~ second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides comprises at least one modified nucleoside comprising a sugar surrogate.

2-70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~said the~~ first and ~~said the~~ second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

72. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1, wherein each of ~~said the~~ first and ~~said the~~ second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

73. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1, wherein at least one sugar surrogate is selected from among a pyrrolidine nucleoside, a morpholino nucleoside, a cyclobutyl nucleoside, and a peptide nucleic acid nucleoside.

74-75. (Canceled)

76. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1, wherein each of ~~said the~~ first and ~~said the~~ second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides comprises a plurality of 2'-hydroxy-pentofuranosyl sugar moieties.

77. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1, wherein each of ~~said the~~ first and ~~said the~~ second chemically synthesized ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides comprises at least two modified nucleosides each independently comprising a sugar surrogate.

78. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1, wherein the mRNA is a mammalian mRNA.

79. (Currently amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1, wherein the mRNA is a human mRNA.